**Project: Find an Apartment**

Guidelines:

- Get a job. *You’ll draw one out of my hat.*

-Pick an apartment you want to rent.

It can be any apartment anywhere in LA County, as

long as you can *get a copy of the floor plan.*

-*Figure out how much rent each of you will pay.*

*Use a reasonable method for figuring out who gets*

*what room and how much you’ll each pay.*

-*Find a roommate who would live there with you.*

Limitations:

-You cannot spend more than 1/3 of your monthly

salary on rent.

-You cannot be ridiculous and say somebody is

willing to rent the living room closet for $500/month.

Complications:

-The roommate can be in another one of my

classes, but it’ll be hard to get your work done

during class time.

-You can get an apt with more bedrooms and more

roommates if you want.

-You can live alone, but you have to figure out how much extra money you have to pay for your space compared to how much you’d pay if you lived with somebody. You also have to be able to afford the apartment and give an explanation for why you’d rather spend more money than get a roommate.

Each Person Turns in:

-A floor plan with the areas calculated for each person, including shared space.

-An explanation of how you figured out what was fair for each person. It can be supply/demand or it can be by square footage. (At least a paragraph)

-An explanation for why you like the arrangements you made.

*What do you like about this apartment?*

*What makes your roommate a good fit for you?*

*What did you have to give up in order to find a place you both*

*could agree on?*

*What were your priorities when looking for an apartment?*

**Floor Plan**

-Shows areas for each person, including their share of the

common space.

-Show the proportion that shows what the mathematically fair

rent would be for each person.

**Job, Income, and Affordable Rent**

Occupation: Teacher

Salary: $60,000

Monthly Pay: $5,000

1/3 Monthly Pay that I can spend on rent: $1,667

Attach your job application and/or resume if you applied for a better job.

**Floor Plan (Attach) with Proportion and Table**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Master bedroom | Bedroom 2 | Total for Both |
| Personal space | 30+10+5=45 | 33+7.5+7=47.5 | 92.5 |
| ½ of shared space | 50.83 | 50.83 | 101.65 |
| Total That Each Person Pays For | 95.83 | 98.33 | 194.16 |
| Percentage of Total Area | 49% | 51% | 100% |
| Fair Rent | 901.60 | 938.40 | $1840 |

**Explanation of Rent Amounts**

We found that the mathematically fair way to split the rent would be for me to pay $938.40 and my roommate Sara to pay $901.60. My area is 51% of the apartment so I should pay rent that is proportional to my space. However, I agreed to pay $1000 so Sara could pay $840, which is all she could afford. I really wanted her to be my roommate because I trust her more than I trust most other people. Since I can’t afford an apartment this nice if I Iive alone, I decided to compromise with Sara and pay more. This way, I get the apartment I want and save $600 compared to the rent I would pay if I lived alone in a 1-bedroom apartment in this building. It’s a little unfair, but it’s still better than paying more just to prevent the unfairness. Plus, I get to live with my best friend so I think it’s worth it.

**My Reason for Choosing This Arrangement**

I really liked this building because it has a Jacuzzi and a gym. It’s also close to where I work, so I’ll save money on gas. I wanted Sara to be my roommate because I know she has good credit and is a clean person. She also respects my privacy so I don’t mind sharing space with her. However, she wanted to live in a cheaper building because she makes less money and can’t afford to pay for half of an apartment in this building. We had to compromise to find a place we could both afford and be happy living in, so we found an apartment that has disparate room sizes. This way, she can pay less and afford to live with me. I still had to pay a little more than my fair share, but I still think it’s fair because I got to choose the building we live in. Sara agreed to cook dinner on Mondays and Wednesdays, which will help me save money because I would probably spend $20 eating out on those nights. It will help make up for the fact that I am paying more rent than I should.